No. 824,483. PATENTED JUNE 26, 1906.

C. A. JOHNSON.

DIRECTORY DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 7, 1905.

Fig. 1,

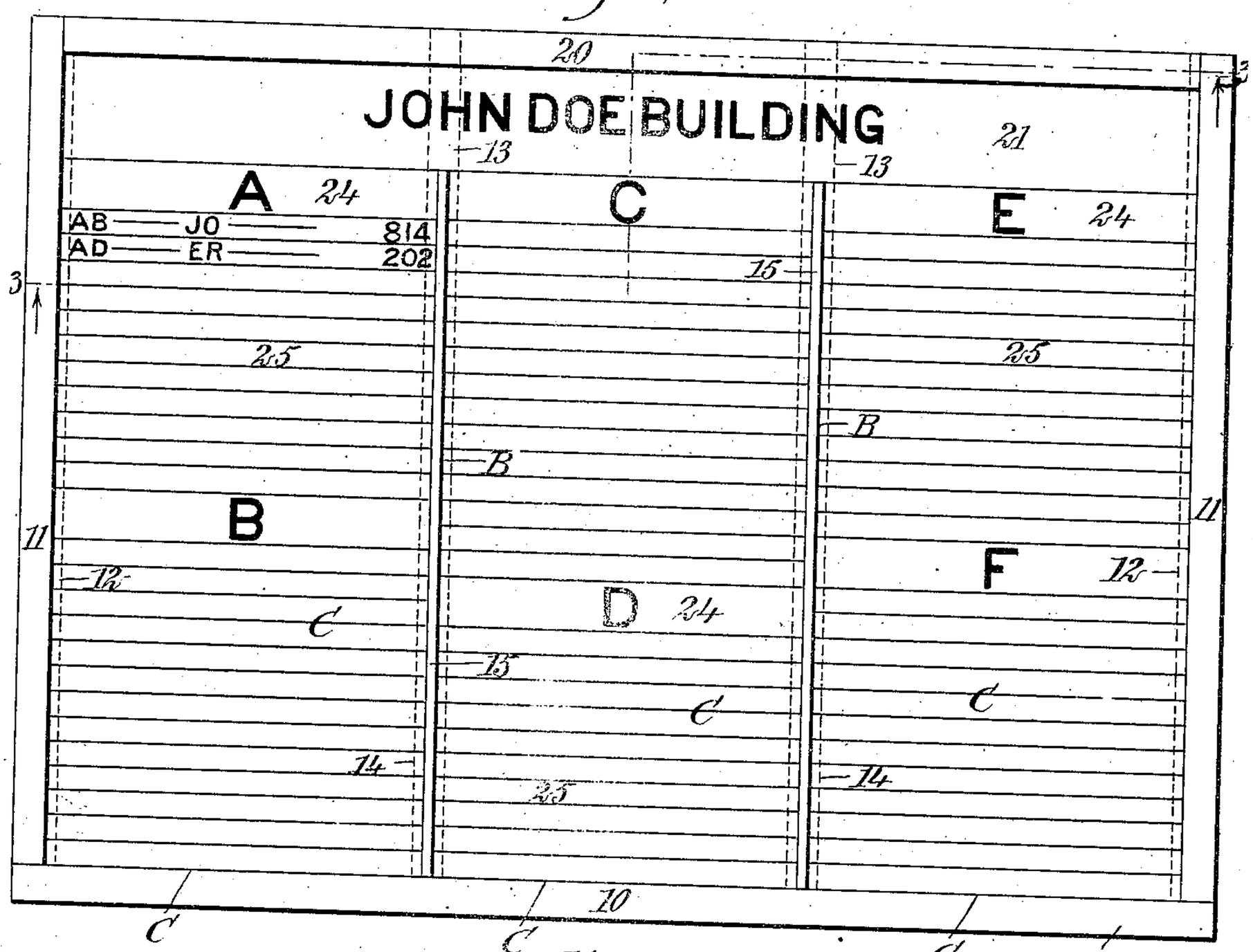


Fig. 2,

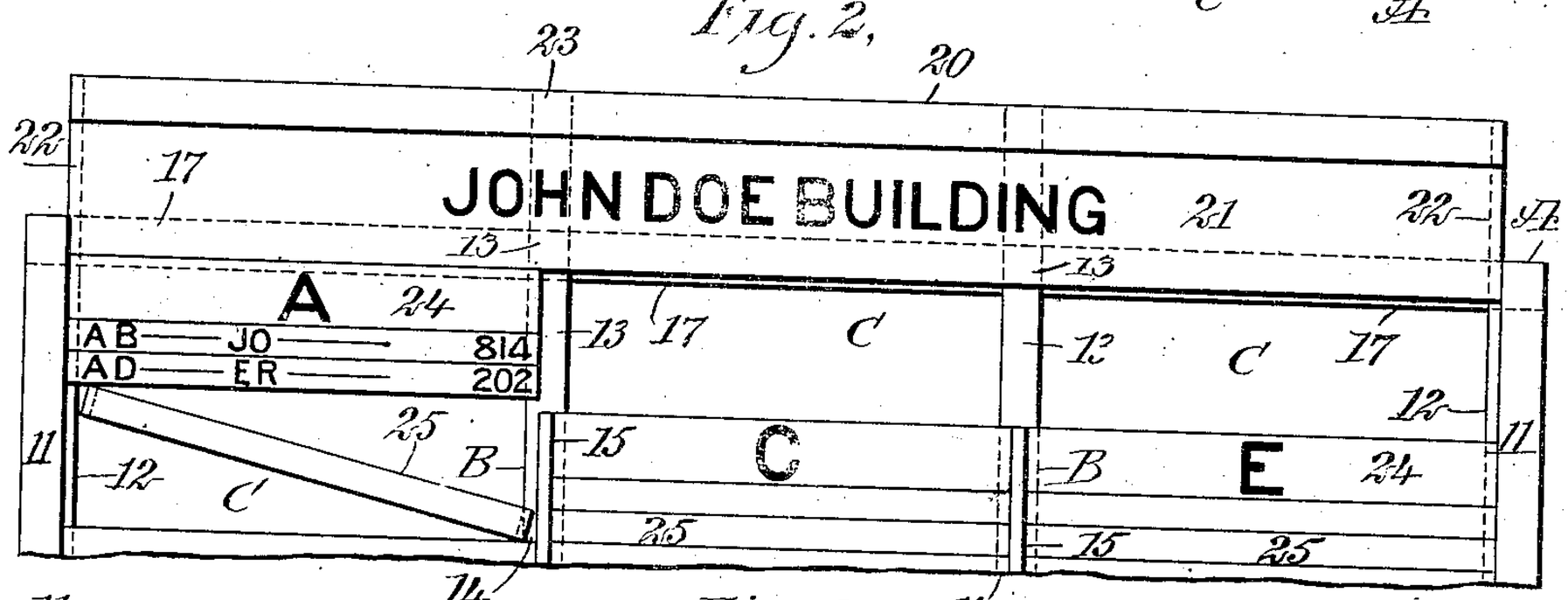
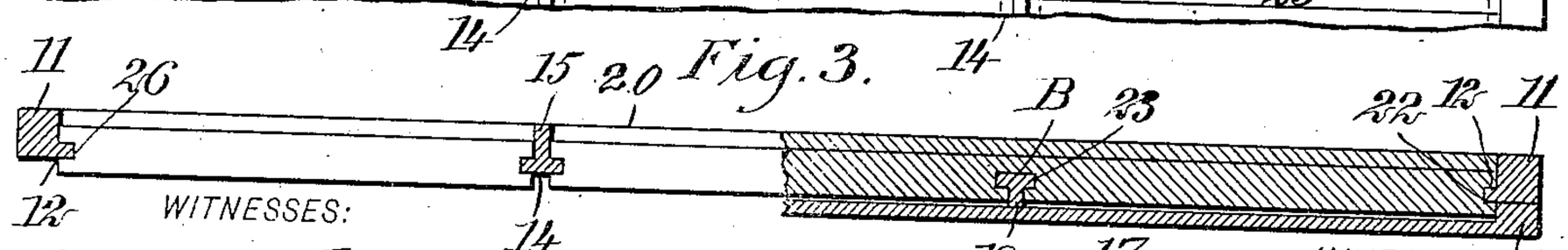


Fig. 3.



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CHARLES AUGUST JOHNSON, OF MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS.

DIRECTORY DEVICE.

No. 824,483. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 26, 1906.

Application filed December 7, 1905. Serial No. 290,807.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES AUGUST JOHNSON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Malden, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and Improved Directory Device, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The purpose of the invention is to provide a directory particularly adapted for use in elevators and so constructed that the names of the tenants of the building are produced upon slats, any one or more of which slats may be turned to present a blank surface or any one or more of said slats may be removed and others substituted without removing the adjoining slats from the front of the device or disarranging them.

A further purpose of the invention is to so construct the frame that the guides for the slats define the width of the columns and plainly separate one column from the other, and also to so construct the frame that one section thereof is slidably mounted and in one position acts as a lock for the slats and in its second position admits of the slats being removed from or shifted in the frame or introduced into the frame.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the improved directory, showing the name and index slats locked in the frame. Fig. 2 is a front view of the upper portion of the directory, showing the frame opened to admit of the introduction and adjustment of the slats in the frame; and Fig. 3 is a horizontal section taken practically on the line 3 3 of Fig. 1.

A represents the frame of the device, the said frame being preferably made of metal. The bottom bar 10 of the frame is flat and is of any desired thickness, and the side bars 11 are likewise flat, being of the same thickness as the bottom bar 10; but each of the side bars 11 is provided at the back of its inner longitudinal face with a flange 12, the back of which flange is usually flush with the back of the said side bars, as is shown in Fig. 3. The combined guide and division bars B extend from the bottom bar 10 of the frame parallel with the side bars 11, and these bars are at equal distances from the side bars and from each other, so as to produce a series of columns C, and while two of these combined guide and division bars B are shown any desired number may be employed, according to the number of columns required in the frame. The said guide and division bars B are T-shaped in cross-section from a point just above the bottom bar 10 to a point near their upper ends; but the upper portions 13 of the said bars B are flat, as is shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The T-shaped portion of each bar B consists of a rear head-section 14, which is secured in the back portion of the bottom bar 10, preferably in such manner that its rear face will be flush with the rear face of the said bottom bar and a web member 15, which web members of the bars B extend from the upper face of the bottom bar 10 of the frame to the plain upper portion 13 of said bars, as is shown also in Figs. 1 and 2. The guide and division bars B extend up the same distance as the side bars 11.

A cross-bar 17 is located at the upper back portion of the frame, being offset therefrom by lugs 19 at the ends of the said cross-bar which have bearing against the back upper portions of the side bars 11, as is shown in Fig. 3, and by narrow lugs 18, which extend from the rear upper faces of the combined guide and division bars, as is also shown in Fig. 3, whereby the combined lugs 18 and bars B are T-shaped in cross-section; but the web portion is at the back, whereas the main web 15 of the bars B is located at the front of said bars, as has been stated.

An upper or thin top frame-bar 20 is provided corresponding to the bottom frame-bar 10 and the side frame-bars 11. The top bar is adapted to fit snugly in between the inner faces of the said side bars at the front when the top section of the frame is in its closed position. (Shown in Fig. 1.)

A sign-board 21 is secured to the back of the top bar 20, extending down any desired distance, and on the front face of this sign-board the name of the building is produced in which the elevator carrying the directory is located. This sign-board is sufficiently thick to be provided with a vertical groove 22 at each end adapted to receive the flanges 12 of the side bars 11 of the frame. The said sign-board is further provided at its rear with T-shaped openings 23, extending down from top to bottom, which recesses receive the

flat upper portions of the combined guide and division boards and the lugs 18 connected therewith, so that in this manner the top section of the frame constructed as described slides upon the flanges 12 of the side bars of the frame and the guide-bars B, and the rear face of the sign-board 21 when in sliding position on the frame has bearing against the forward face of the rear cross-bar 17.

The frame is adapted to receive slats 24, on each of which slats a letter of the alphabet is printed, impressed, or otherwise produced, and in connection with these initial-slats 24 series of name-slats 25 are also employed. Sundry of the name-slats are blank upon both faces and others have the names of the occupants of the building produced on one face, together with the number of the room or rooms occupied by such tenants. The name-slats 25 are narrower than the initial-slats 24, but all of the slats are of such length that they extend from one side of the column C to the other. Each slat is provided at each end with a vertical recess 26, as is best shown in Fig. 3, to receive the flanges 12 of the side bars 11 of the frame and adjacent portions of the head-sections 14 of the combined guide and division bars. The name-slats are alphabetically grouped, and each group is headed by an appropriate initial-slat 24. The slats 24 and 25 may be made of any suitable material. Preferably, however, they are made of a compressed fiber and are painted black, the names and figures being impressed thereon and colored white.

When all the slats are in position in the frame, the upper section of the frame will bear upon the upper edges of the uppermost slats of all of the columns, and one slat will have firm bearing upon the other, the lowermost slat having bearing upon the upper face of the bottom bar 10. If a slat is to be shifted by reason of an occupant leaving the building, for example, the upper section of the frame is slid upward about as far as the lower edge of the rear cross-bar 17, as shown in Fig. 2, or as far as possible without causing the said uppermost section to leave its guides or slideways. When the upper section of the frame is in this position, the slats in the column in which the slat to be removed is located are slid up, as shown, to the left in Fig. 2, until sufficient space is obtained to remove the desired slat, which is done by carrying one end of it high enough to clear it from its guide or slideway, whereupon the slat can be removed entirely from the column. The slat may then be reversed or turned end for end so as to present a blank face to the front after the slat is reintroduced into the column, which is done in the same manner as that by which it was removed, or another slat bearing another name and number may be introduced into the space formerly occupied by the one removed, and in introducing the new slat one end, for example, is made to receive the head of a bar B in its slot, which end of the slat is made to rest on the slat in position in the frame and which is to be the next lowest. The opposite end of the slat being introduced is then raised sufficiently to permit the flange 12 of the adjacent side bar 11 to enter the slat at that end of the slat, whereupon the slat is permitted to drop to a continuous engagement with the one immediately beneath it, and the slats above are then permitted to drop upon the newly-introduced slat. In this manner any particular slat may be shifted, removed, or substituted without removing adjacent slats from the frame or interfering with the order of said slats.

It is evident that a device of the character described can be made very simple, and is especially adapted for use in an elevator, and that the names can be readily and expeditiously changed when desired, and that the device may be made larger and employed in a hall or lobby of a building, for example.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. In a directory device, a frame having opposing combined guide and division bars dividing the frame into one or more columns, name-slats arranged to fit one on the other in the column or columns formed by the guide and division bars, said slats being independent of each other and capable of assuming diagonal positions in the columns they occupy, and a sliding section for the frame, having guided movement on its members and adapted for locking the slats in place and permitting the removal or adjustment of the slats.

2. A directory, consisting of a frame having a sliding upper section and a series of combined guide and division bars extending upward from the lower member of the frame, dividing the frame into series of columns, said bars being T-shaped in cross-section, guide-flanges located at the inner side faces of the side members of the frame, and name-slats arranged to fit one upon the other in the columns formed by the said guide and division bars, the ends of the slats receiving the head portions of the said bars or receiving the flanges of the side bars of the frame, the uppermost section of the frame when in closed position locking the said slats in their places.

3. In a directory, a frame comprising a bottom bar and side bars, the side bars being provided with guide-flanges at their inner side edges, intermediate combined guide and division bars T-shaped in cross-section from their bottom portions to a point near the top, the top portions being flat, the web portions of the bars facing to the front, the edges of

the head-sections being in alinement with the guide-flanges of the side bars of the frame, an upper section of the frame having sliding movement upon the upper portion of the combined guide and division bars and having guided movement on the upper portions of the side flanges of the frame, a series of initial slats and of name-slats, having grooves in their ends adapted to receive either a side guide-flange or a head portion of a combined guide and division bar, said slats being arranged in columns defined by the said guide and division bar, one slat resting upon another, all of the slats being held in said position by the upper sliding section of the frame engaging with the uppermost slat, as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES AUGUST JOHNSON.

Witnesses:
JAMES L. LEAVITT,
CHARLES A. BOWSER.